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EXAMINER

JOSEPH, THOMAS J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2174

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/436,465

Applicant(s)

REKIMOTO, JUNICHI

Examiner

Thomas J Joseph

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 14, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mastering Windows 3.1 Special Edition* by Robert Cowart and Kawabata et al. (US 6,121,951).

Claims 1, 14, and 26 are rejected. Cowart teaches the display of a window (p. 809). This display requires use of a hardware device that uses software. This hardware coupled with software is the "information processing apparatus" and "information processing method" as cited by the Applicant in claims 1 and 14. Cowart teaches the display of day and time settings means for setting and storing day and time information (p. 809). This information requires the use of a "storage means for repeatedly storing data in a plurality of given states each time said data is created or changed, wherein each given state is based on time information corresponding to a day and time at which said data is stored" as cited by the Applicant. Cowart teaches a method for choosing a "day and time setting means for setting a desired day and time" as cited by the Applicant. When the files are saved, a desired day and time corresponding to the time of saving is stored. The claim language does not require that the user select this desired day and time. This process translates into the requiring a

Art Unit: 2174

"control means for locating data stored at said set day and time based on said time information and for reproducing said given state of said data at said item at which said data was stored" as cited by the Applicant. Further, Cowart demonstrates locating data that can be reproduced using date and time information (p. 809 – 810). Furthermore, each file represents a plurality of given states each time data is stored or created.

Cowart fails to teach reproducing a given state of said data corresponding to the set day and time. Cowart using of date and time information does suggest the need for reproducing a given state using corresponding day data. Kawabata teaches a graphics system that reproduces a given state of said data corresponding to the date (fig. 4a). Kawabata teaches a method for repeatedly storing data in a plurality of states each time said data is created and changed (fig. 4a). Multiple files and multiple graphic images suggest a storage means for repeatedly storing data in a plurality of states. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the scheduling system that reproduces a given state of said data corresponding to the day for performing repeated storing taught by Kawabata with the window based date and time system disclosed by Cowart. Doing so provides a graphical method for informing the user of various states associated with both proposed and completed events. Further, any reference to data associated with day is also a reference to time.

3. Claims 2 – 4, 6, 8, 9, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 27, and 28 rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by *Mastering Windows 3.1 Special Edition* by

Art Unit: 2174

Robert Cowart and Kawabata et al. (US 6,121,951) as applied to claims 1, 14, and 26 above, and further in view of Jenson et al. (US 6,236,396).

Claims 2,15, and 27 are rejected. Cowart teaches a storage means for storing a file in a plurality of given states each time the said file is created or changed, wherein each of given states is based on a date and time setting means for setting the date and time according to a past or future screen (p. 809 – 810). The various files represent various states. Cowart teaches a control means for locating a file stored at a said day and time based on said time information (p. 810). Further, the means for representing various states need not to be automatic. Therefore, the user can store items within data entries that represent a particular state (fig. 15).

Cowart and Kawabata fail to teach a method for loading corresponding past or future screens from said storage means and reproducing the said given state of said file along with said corresponding past or future screens. Cowart provides only the date and time of the last storing of the stored data file. Cowart does suggest the need for allowing a user to view a filing history of stored data files. Jenson teaches loading corresponding past or future screens from said storage means and reproducing the said given state of said file along with said corresponding past or future screens (fig. 5a – 5d). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the loading of corresponding past and future screens taught by Jenson with the date and time setting means disclosed by Cowart and Kawabata. Doing so allows for the tracking of data file histories.

Claim 3 is rejected. Cowart and Kawabata fail to teach or demonstrate entering character strings into a scheduler. Jenson teaches or demonstrates the entering of character strings into the scheduler (fig. 3a). Jenson teaches the use of a stylus for entering data including time data (col. 6, lines 4 – 7). This teaching by Jenson translates into an “input means for inputting a character string to be retrieved” as cited by the applicant in claim 3. Jenson teaches selecting time data “when the stylus (38) is lifted from the screen (42), step (56) realizes that a date or range of dates has been selected” (col. 6, lines 4 – 7). This selection results in the retrieval of information associated with the said dates while the Applicant cites in claim 3 a “retrieval means for retrieving a file corresponding to the character string input from said input means with respect to a past or future screen”. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine entering character strings into a scheduler taught by Jenson with the date and time setting means disclosed by Cowart and Kawabata. Doing so allows the user to make necessary alterations to data.

Claims 4 and 16 are rejected. Cowart and Kawabata fail to teach a document file, an image file, and a character string. Jenson teaches the use of QUICKDRAW for entering graphics information (col. 5, lines 33 – 36). This information is associated a particular date and time (col. 5, lines 33 – 36). Jenson teaches a character string (fig. 3a). Jenson demonstrates “a document file, an image file, and a character string” as cited by the Applicant. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the document file, an image file, and a character

string taught by Jenson with the file management disclosed by Cowart and Kawabata. Doing so allows for entering document and graphic data into the files.

Claims 6 and 18 are rejected. Cowart teaches "day and time at which said file is changed and the revision information of said file" (p. 810) as cited by the Applicant.

Claims 8, 20, and 28 are rejected. Cowart and Kawabata fail to teach an apparatus where the user selects a day then receives additional information regarding that day onto a computer screen. Jenson demonstrates an apparatus where the user selects a day then receives additional information regarding that day via computer display (fig. 3a). Jenson, in doing so, teaches a "time information transmission and receiving means which is capable of transmitting and receiving said time information is provided" as cited by the Applicant. The selecting process taught by Jenson includes a method for allowing the said position to be "stored in such a manner as to correspond to time information in said storage means" as cited by the Applicant. Furthermore, the act of displaying taught by Jenson is a "setting means sets said day and time on the basis of received time information" as cited by the Applicant. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the apparatus where the user selects a day then receives additional information regarding that day onto a computer screen taught by Jenson with the file management disclosed by Cowart and Kawabata. Doing so allows the user to make changes and corrections to date and time information as needed.

Claims 9 and 21 are rejected. Cowart and Kawabata fail to teach selecting a day and receiving information regarding the said day. Jenson teaches selecting a day and

Art Unit: 2174

receiving information regarding the said day (fig. 3a). Jenson, in doing so, teaches a "position detection means for detecting a position is provided, said position is also stored in such a manner as to correspond to time setting means and sets day and time on the basis of time information corresponding to said position" as cited by the Applicant. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine selecting a day and receiving information regarding the said day taught by Jenson with the file management disclosed by Cowart and Kawabata. Doing so allows the user to make changes and corrections to date and time information as needed.

4. Claims 5 and 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mastering Windows 3.1 Special Edition* by Robert Cowart, Kawabata et al. (US 6,121,951), and Jenson et al. (US 6,236,396) as applied to claims 4 and 16 above, and further in view of Heatherington et al. (US 6,141,005).

Claims 5 and 17 are rejected. Cowart, Kawabata, and Jenson fail to teach a color of said character string that changes over time and is displayed on said screen. Heatherington teaches a control means for performing controls so that the color of said character string changes over time and is displayed on said screen (fig. 11; col. 11, lines 45 – 55). The days on the calendar with altered colors are time related character strings. The highlighted days are considered days on the calendar having altered color. Character strings appear in the form of numbers, letters, and/or punctuation. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

Art Unit: 2174

combine the color altering of character strings over time taught by Heatherington with the data system disclosed by Cowart and Jenson. Doing so alerts the user quickly.

5. Claims 7 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mastering Windows 3.1 Special Edition* by Robert Cowart, Kawabata et al. (US 6,121,951), and Jenson et al (US 6,236,396) as applied to claims 2 and 15 above, and further in view of Microsoft Outlook 97 by Russell Borland.

Claims 7 and 19 are rejected. Cowart, Kawabata, and Jenson fail to teach a storing step for storing the difference between said file before it is changed and said file after it is changed. However, processing files in such a manner is suggested through the use of a calendar whenever the user makes reference to specific documents such as calendar notes. Microsoft Outlook teaches a method wherein the "storing step stores the difference between said file before it is changed and said file after it is changed, and said control step reproduces a desired file from said difference on the basis of said time information" as cited by the Applicant (p. 339). The user can save a new copy of a work file each day. This would in essence be the method for the "storing step stores the difference between said file before it is changed and said file after it is changed, and said control step reproduces a desired file from said difference on the basis of said time information," as cited by the Applicant. It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to combine the method for storing the difference between said file before it is changed and said file after it is changed, and said control step reproduces a desired file from said difference on the basis of said time information taught by Outlook with the

Art Unit: 2174

time and date system taught by Cowart, Kawabata, and Jenson. Doing so enables the user to track changes to the stored files as taught by Outlook.

6. Claims 10 – 13 and 22 – 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Mastering Windows 3.1 Special Edition* by Robert Cowart and Kawabata et al. (US 6,121,951) as applied to claims 1 and 14 above, in view of Jenson et al (US 6,236,396) and Microsoft Outlook 97 by Russell Borland.

Claims 10 and 22 are rejected. Cowart and Kawabata fail to teach a storage means for storing an application program that is capable of transmitting and receiving time information, said day and time setting means that sets said day and time on the basis of the time information. Jenson teaches a storage means for storing an application program that is capable of transmitting and receiving time information, said day and time setting means sets said day and time on the basis of the time information (fig. 5a – 5d).

Jenson fails to teach a day and time setting means for establishing the said day and time on the basis of time information received from another application program. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the storage means for storing an application program capable of transmitting and receiving time information taught by Jensen with the day and time setting means disclosed by Cowart and Kawabata. Doing so provides greater detail in the recording and retrieval of time tracking data.

Outlook teaches using a day and time setting means that sets said day and time on the basis of time information received from another application program, and said

control means for reproducing the state of the application program corresponding to the set day and time (p. 65). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to combine the day and time setting means taught by Outlook with the data management system disclosed by Cowart, Kawabata, and Jenson. The appointment reminder is a method for reproducing the state of a type of application program corresponding to the set day and time. Doing so provides the user with options such as regular alerts and status updates.

Claims 11 and 23 are rejected. Jenson teaches a means wherein the user selects a day and receives information related to the said day. This is a method for setting a "said day and time setting means sets the day and time closest to said received time information" as cited by the Applicant (fig. 3a). The phrase, "closest to said received time information" cited by the Applicant is a relative term meaning anywhere on a small display screen.

Claims 12 and 24 are rejected. Cowart and Kawabata fail to teach a method for storing and accessing files in a date and time based journal. Jenson teaches a calendar system (fig. 3a). Jenson fails to teach storing and accessing files in a date and time based journal. Outlook teaches a method for storing and accessing files in a date and time based journal (p. 339). This management system translates into a "file management system." It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the method for the a method for storing and accessing files in a date and time based journal by Outlook with the time and date filing

Art Unit: 2174

system taught by Jenson, Cowart, and Kawabata. Doing so enables the user to track store and retrieve file data, such as documents in addition to schedule information.

Claims 13 and 25 are rejected. Cowart, Kawabata, and Jenson disclose in rejected claim 10 an application program containing "a position and time information management program for managing input position information and the time information corresponding to the position information" as cited by the Applicant in claim 13. The selecting of days on the calendar is time related information and is also selecting a position. Accessing information already becomes an operation for "managing input position information and the time information corresponding to the position information" as cited by the Applicant.

Response to Arguments

7. The Applicant amends claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 26, and 27 while requesting reconsideration for the corresponding dependent claims.

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Due to at least the above reasons, the rejection of claims 1 – 28 remains standing.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J Joseph whose telephone number is 703-305-3917. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

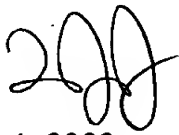
Art Unit: 2174

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

tjj

February 4, 2003



Kristine Kincaid
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